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## The Second War: A Relapse

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## THE SECOND WAR: A RELAPSE

Robert G. Cowser, Ph.D.

During my childhood elders talked  
of the first war in France as one  
might recall a long illness of a neighbor.  
It was to have been the suffering to end  
the plague of combat, the pain required  
of the world to build immunity, as the experience  
of the pox prevents its recurrence.

When news of an armistice arrived in Greenwood,  
my parents reported that neighbors on farms  
celebrated by sounding the horns on Model Ts  
and opening the party line to all callers.  
The world's fever had broken; it would survive,  
perhaps never to sicken again.

But later, in my childhood,  
the world suffered a relapse, the Nazis  
having tampered with natural immunity.  
When Warsaw fell, and then Paris,  
we knew the world would suffer.

